

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/098 W

-----127161 121112Z /11

R 120937Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6267
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
473#38/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2040
AMEMBASSY DJBOUTI
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USUN NEW YORK 504

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0107

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORGYMN PDIP, PBOR, ET, SU, OAU
ORSUBJECT: SUDAN POLICIES IN HORN

REF: KHARTOUM 0038

SUMMARY: SUDAN PRESS JANUARY 11 REPORTS THAT SIERRA
LEONE ENVOY DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM SIAKA STEVENS TO
NIMEIRI RE SUDAN-ETHIOPIA RELATIONS. ACCORDING MINSTATE
FONAFFS, STEVENS PRAISED SUDANGOV MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH EPMG. HOWEVER, IN INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN TV
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NIMEIRI INDICATED THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM
REMAINED ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVEMENT BILATERAL RELATIONS
WITH ADDIS ABABA, AND HE ALSO EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER
SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. NIMEIRI ADDED THAT HE HAS
PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL THAT WILL LEAD TO PEACE IN OGADEN
ON WHICH HE HAS ALREADY OBTAINED SIAD BARRE'S APPROVAL.
EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO DETAILS REGARDING PROPOSAL, BUT IT

MAY ENTAIL CEASE FIRE IN PLACE. NOT CLEAR WHETHER SIAD WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL AND IN FACT THERE SOME EVIDENCE THAT RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA ARE BIT STRAINED IN AFTERMATH RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN KHARTOUM'S RELATIONS WITH ADDIS ABABA. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 11 HIGHLIGHTS ITEMS REGARDING SUDAN-ETHIOPIA RELATIONS. SPECIAL ENVOY EYAE MBAYO AND SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN MET JANUARY 10 WITH NIMEIRI AND MINSTATE FONAFFS FRANCIS DENG TO PRESENT MESSAGE FROM SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT SIAKA STEVENS CONCERNING RESULTS OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE ON SUDAN-ETHIOPIA RELATIONS. ENVOY MBAYO SAID MESSAGE DISCUSSED STEPS NECESSARY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AND SIMILAR REPORTS WERE BEING DELIVERED TO ETHIOPIA AND TO OAU. ACCORDING SUNA, DENG SAID STEVENS APPRECIATED SUDAN'S GOOD WILL, SINCERITY, AND COOPERATION IN ACCEPTING MEDIATION EFFORTS AND IN CARRYING OUT MEDIATION COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. STEVENS ALSO PRAISED SUDAN'S DECISION TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO RETURN TO ETHIOPIA, ACCORDING DENG. NIMEIRI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO STEVENS AND SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT FOR ROLE IN NORMALIZING SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, GENERALLY UPBEAT STATEMENTS BY
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ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN PRESS WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.

2. HOWEVER, IN STATEMENT TO EGYPTIAN TELEVISION, PUBLISHED AT LENGTH IN KHARTOUM JANUARY 11, NIMEIRI SAID SUDAN TOLD ETHIOPIA DURING MEETINGS OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE WITHOUT FINDING JUST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO ERITREAN QUESTION. SUDAN ALSO AFFIRMED AGAIN THAT IF SOVIET INTERFERENCE IS NOT HALTED, PEACE IS IMPOSSIBLE. NIMEIRI SAID ETHIOPIA AGREED TO HIS PLAN.

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6268

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0107

3. IN SAME TV INTERVIEW, NIMEIRI SAID HE HAD PROPOSED
PLAN TO RESOLVE OGADEN DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND
SOMALIA AND WAS ALSO ASKING ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO
CAIRO TO SUBMIT PLAN TO ADDIS. NIMEIRI SAID HE HAD
APPROVAL OF SIAD BARRE FOR PLAN AND IF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
APPROVES, PLAN "WILL LEAD TO PEACE" IN OGADEN.
PAPERS HERE JANUARY 12 ALSO REPORT ON OGADEN PEACE MOVES.

4. NIMEIRI TOLD EGYPTIAN TV AUDIENCE ABOUT SOVIET
"OCTOPUS" AND WARNED AGAINST SOVIET MANEUVERS IN ARAB
AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE DENOUNCED STRATEGY THAT AIMS
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MAKING POOR COUNTRIES FIGHT ONE ANOTHER. IN LENGTHY REMARKS,
HE BLAMED SOVIETS FOR REJECTION OF SADAT MIDDLE EAST
INITIATIVES BY SOME ARAB COUNTRIES. MUCH OF INTERVIEW
PUBLISHED IN KHARTOUM DEALT WITH PRAISE FOR SADAT AND
FOR EGYPTIAN POLICIES, AND DESCRIPTION OF HOW CLOSELY
SUDAN CONSIDERS ITSELF LINKED TO EGYPT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: NIMEIRI CONTINUES PURSUIT OF BETTER
RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND WIDER GOAL OF REDUCED

TENSIONS IN HORN REGION. HOWEVER, IT CLEAR FROM
INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN TV THAT HE WILL REMAIN FIRM
ON ERITREA AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. WE DO
NOT RPT NOT KNOW DETAILS OF NIMEIRI'S "PLAN" TO SOLVE
OGADEN DISPUTE BUT NIMEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY
HE HAS ADVISED SIAD BARRE TO CALL FOR CEASE FIRE IN
PLACE IN OGADEN. NOT CLEAR WHETHER SIAD BARRE
WOULD ACCEPT THIS ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST
HE HAS. RESTRICTED VERSION OF SUNA BULLETIN MEANT
FOR SUDANGOV LEADERSHIP DISTRIBUTED EARLIER THIS WEEK
HOWEVER CARRIED ITEM FROM MOGADISCIO WHICH WAS CRITICAL
OF SUDANGOV POSITIONS IN HORN, ESPECIALLY ERITREA, WHICH
SUGGESTS SOME STRAIN IN SUDAN-SOMALIA RELATIONS WHICH
WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IN LIGHT RECENT IMPROVEMENTS
BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND ADDIS ABABA. EMBASSY MOGADISCIO
MAY WISH COMMENT.
BERGUS

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